

OUR IMPACT



Lutheran Elementary School Association ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020



STEM TRAINING & LEARNING

- 33 teachers received 133 hours of STEM training in LEGO education
- 12 schools utilized LESA'S LEGO resources

REACH

- 3 schools as educational partners
- 6 early childhood center partners
- 36 accredited schools & affiliate Members

SAVINGS

- \$51,454 SAVED for Missouri member schools in natural gas costs this year

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Faculty members received 2,890 HOURS of professional development in 7 events
- 97% of educators stated the LESA educator professional development is beneficial to them in their school ministry

"I am a single-income grandmother raising grandchildren.

When I walk outside the school doors and look up at the steeple on the church, I often get choked up, and I often wonder if some of the other parents even know what an eternal impact is being made on their children's lives."

STUDENTS

- 857 Students in 5 schools received 2,169 hours of counseling through \$11,206 in LESA grants
- 475 Students received a total of \$454,701 in Building Blocks Scholarships

**To date,
\$5,496,367 AWARDED TO
3,488 STUDENTS.**

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Serving Schools, Families and Communities



This fiscal year was very challenging for our parents, students, teachers, administrators and the LESA staff. The year began with the blessing of a successful fall event; over 1,800 guests supported the 2019 Brew in the Lou which produced 21% more revenue for LESA programs than was originally anticipated. Then things changed when COVID-19 hit the U.S. As a precaution related to the pandemic, schools discontinued in-person classes in March. Teachers and administrators had to learn to creatively teach children virtually and to give personal attention likewise. Students had to learn virtually and study independently. For everyone's safety LESA cancelled its annual in-person spring auction and held an on-line auction instead.

Through all the uncertain times, God has continued to bless LESA and the students of the 31 elementary and three high schools it serves. Innovative fund raising was developed. The on-line auction raised a record amount.



LESA was blessed by the Lutheran Foundation with a \$50,000 Partner Stability Grant to help support the ministry during the COVID crisis. LESA applied for and received a PPP loan which helped offset payroll and other operational costs. Numerous supporters increased their giving to help more students. In spite of all the obstacles, we were able to finish the year accomplishing or exceeding our goals. We awarded the highest amount ever in scholarships to 475 students. Educators in LESA-member schools also benefited through several professional development events presented by locally and nationally acclaimed

experts that ultimately will bless the students they serve. And five new named endowments were established for the benefit of LESA which will produce revenue to fund scholarships and programs for years to come. As we close the year, we thank our donors who realized the importance of a Christian education for children during these anxious times and gave generously. LESA still faces a challenging future as the Covid crisis continues to make fund raising difficult. Please keep LESA, its Board of Directors and its dedicated staff in your prayers. Now, more than ever, LESA needs your support to keep children in Lutheran schools where they hear God's promise to be with them always.

Marilyn Brickler
LESA Board Chair



**FAMILY AFFORDABILITY • EDUCATIONAL QUALITY • COLLABORATION
Serving Schools, Families and Communities**

FACTS & FIGURES



VISION
An academically excellent Lutheran Christian education is a realistic choice for all children.

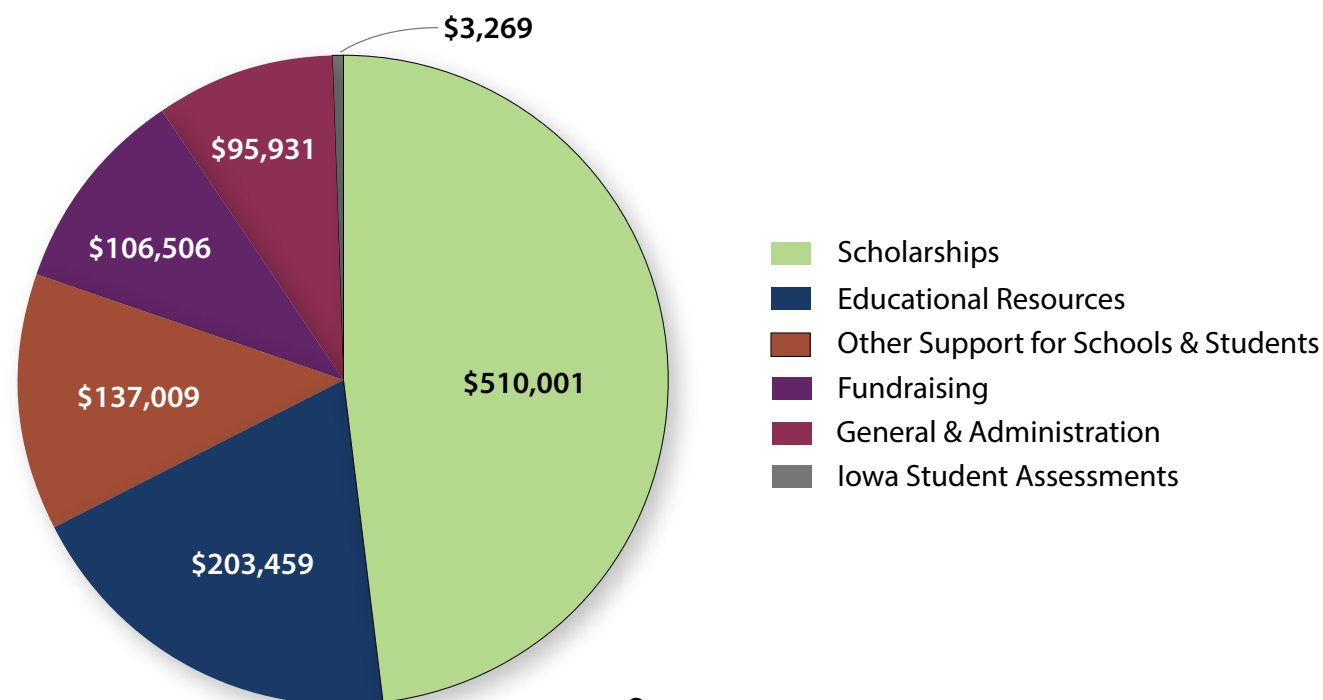


MISSION
LESA provides financial resources for children in need to obtain Lutheran Christian education in the metro St. Louis area. We advocate and support efforts to improve the sustainability and quality of Lutheran Christian schools.

WHO IS SERVED BY BUILDING BLOCKS SCHOLARSHIPS?

Household Socioeconomic Status	Ethnicity
Students in households with incomes below the federal poverty level..... 17%	Black.....38%
Students in households with incomes above the federal poverty level83%	Asian3%
	Caucasian.....55%
	Hispanic.....4%
Attend Lutheran Schools	Faith Affiliation
Urban Settings 15%	Lutheran47%
Suburban or Rural.....85%	Other Faith Denominations48%
	No Faith Home5%

LESA 19/20 BUDGET – \$1,056,175



FUNDRAISING



SAVE THE DATE...

“Cooking for Kids” 17th Annual Tribute Dinner Auction

LESA’s largest annual fundraising event will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021. The event features a three-course dinner, open bar, live and silent auctions, and a student scholarship appeal. A Student Christian Leader and Heritage Club Honoree will be recognized.



Brew in the Lou & Fine Wine Too



Save the Date—October 9, 2021 @ Francis Park featuring tastings of St. Louis’ best beer, wine, spirits, coffee, and great food, with live entertainment, craft vendors and exhibits.

Give a card that gives back

Purchase your Christmas or Birthday Cards now through LESA. Artwork is designed by students in Lutheran elementary schools. Each pack of 10 cards with envelopes is \$10. Purchase by calling 314-200-0797 or LESAstl.org.



What will you leave behind?



You too can be a blessing to the children LESA serves through a simple gift that can make a BIG difference. By including a witness of faith and support for the Lord’s work in your estate plan, you honor God, who created, redeemed and sustains our lives. You also bless our children and our children’s



children. LESA’s estate planning partner, the LC—MS Foundation, can help you develop a plan that allows you to share your

blessings with your family and with the ministries dear to your heart, often with tax benefits for those you leave behind. This service is offered at no cost to you, and the process is confidential and tailored to your family’s needs.

Lutheran Legacy and the Youthbridge Foundation are offering matches on new named endowments.

To learn more about a legacy gift and to become a member of the Heritage Club call 314-200-0797 or visit LESAstl.org